

We need a `smart growth' plan

The Daily Breeze editorial "High-density plan could be disaster" (Opinion page, Aug. 29), clearly articulates a wake-up call for all of us living in Southern California. The fact that employment and housing patterns have a geographic pattern unlike that of other more concentrated urban cities is the root of the problem.

Modest density in new development seeking closer connection with jobs and housing, along with supporting transportation options in various regions of the area seems more sensible than seeking high-density development downtown and along Wilshire Boulevard. **For sure, planners need to recognize unique topography and existing transportation routes in their assessments, as noted recently in a citizens review of San Pedro's proposed Ponte Vista housing project.** We need to seek a carefully defined balance between environmental effects impacts on the existing community and the need to find real "smart-growth" economic development for the region.

- JERRY GAINES

San Pedro